

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 02634 080412Z
ACTION HEW-06

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-----096830 080654Z /17

R 072314Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3546

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 2634

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP,

SUBJECT: A) SHIPMENTS OF TISSUE TYPING ANTISERA TO NIH
B) SHIPMENTS OF NON-INFECTIOUS HUMAN SERUM FOR TYPING
PURPOSES LAB USE ONLY

EMBASSY SENT FOLLOWING TELEGRAM REF: WELLINGTON 2185 TO
RUEDARB NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH, BETHESDA, MARYLAND,
JUNE 9, 1977 TO WHICH NO REPLY YET RECEIVED. TEXT OF
TELEGRAM AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY DR. R.E.W. DARBY,
PATHOLOGIST AT THE PALMERSTON NORTH HOSPITAL, PALMERSTON
NORTH, NEW ZEALAND, FOR CLARIFICATION OF U.S. IMPORT
REQUIREMENTS FOR TISSUE TYPING ANTISERA. THE HOSPITAL
RECEIVED FROM NIH APPROXIMATELY 18 MONTHS AGO AN INITIAL
SUPPLY OF ANTISERA TO ASSIST WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
ANTISERA TISSUE TYPING AT THE HOSPITAL. WITH THIS GIFT
FROM NIH, A COMMITMENT WAS MADE TO IDENTIFY AND FORWARD
SUITABLE ANTISERA TO NIH WITHIN TWO YEARS. THUS, THERE IS
ESSENTIALLY AN ANTISERA EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE TWO
INSTITUTIONS.

2. SHIPMENTS FROM NEW ZEALAND TO NIH REQUIRE A
NEW ZEALAND EXPORT VISA, WHICH IS ISSUED ROUTINELY
WITHOUT DIFFICULTY. THE PACKAGES ARE ADDRESSED TO
MISS. C. HEALY, T.I.B. REPOSITORY, FLOW LABORATORIES,
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INC., 1710 CHAPMAN AVENUE, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850,
AND ARE FROZEN IN DRY ICE. MISS HEALY IS SENT A TELEX
ADVISING HER OF EACH SHIPMENT EFFECTED.

3. DR. DARBY WAS INFORMED BY TELEPHONE ON JUNE 7
FROM WASHINGTON PRESUMABLY MISS HEALY) THAT A
SHIPMENT WHICH HAD BEEN ADVISED BY TELEX HAD NOT ARRIVED. ONE

OF THE AIRLINES CARRYING THE PACKAGE HAD REFUSED IT BECAUSE IT WAS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY A U.S. IMPORT LICENSE. DR. DARBY STATES THAT HIS IS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT SUCH A LICENSE IS REQUIRED ONLY WHERE THE SERUM OR ANTISERA IS REQUIRED FOR THE TREATMENT OF PATIENTS OR ANIMALS. IF THE MATERIAL IS FOR LABORATORY USE ONLY -- AS THE SHIPMENTS IN QUESTION ARE-- HE UNDERSTANDS THAT AN IMPORT LICENSE IS NOT REQUIRED.

4. EMBASSY WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF HIH OR OTHER APPROPRIATE WASHINGTON AGENCY COULD CLARIFY IMPORT LICENSE REQUIREMENTS. IF SUCH LICENSES ARE IN FACT NOT REQUIRED, CONFIRMATION BY RETURN CABLE WILL PERMIT EMBASSY TO ISSUE A STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT FOR THE HOSPITAL'S USE IN FUTURE SHIPMENTS. IF THEY ARE REQUIRED, WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE WE MIGHT PASS TO DR. DARBY ON HOW TO OBTAIN THE LICENSES.
END QUOTE

EMBASSY HAS JUST BEEN NOTIFIED OF SECOND SIMILAR INSTANCE BY ALLEN KNIGHT, TECHNOLOGIST, BLOOD BANK, DUNEDIN PUBLIC HOSPITAL WHO WISHES TO SHIP NON-INFECTIOUS HUMAN SERUM FOR TYPING PURPOSES LAB USE ONLY TO JOHN CASE, GAMMA BIOCHEMICALS, 3700 MAGNUM ROAD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77092. AIRLINE SHIPPING SERUM FROM NEW ZEALAND HAS ADVISED KNIGHT THAT THE SERUM CANNOT BE FORWARDED TO THE U.S. WITHOUT CLEARANCE THROUGH A U.S. IMPORT LICENSE. KNIGHT HAS SHIPPED BLOOD AND SERUM PREVIOUSLY WITH NO COMPLICATIONS.
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EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE URGENT CLARIFICATION OF BOTH PROBLEMS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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